



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk (860)441-6640  
Town Manager  
(860)441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Representative Town Meeting

**Moderator Rita Schmidt**

**Representatives Joe Baril, Tom Barnhart, Lori Bartinik, Alicia Bauer, Genevieve Cerf, Michael Collins, Syma Ebbin, Peter Fairbank, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Debra Jenkins, Carole McCarthy, Kevin McMahon, Richard Metayer, David Miner, Deborah Monteiro, James Moulding, Scott Newsome, Nora Patterson, Deborah Peruzzotti, Joy Plunket, Robert Post, Kevin Power, Don Pratt, Mary-Ellen Schefers, Eleanor Scussel, Jack Sebastian, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Fritz Stein, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Patti Thunberg, Cheryl Tilney, Tom Vivirito, Robert Walker Sr, and John Wheeler.**

---

**Wednesday, April 12, 2006**

**7:30 PM**

**Senior Center**

---

**Regular Meeting**

---

**A. ROLL CALL**

*The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.  
34 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Schmidt, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Harrell, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Miner, Rep. Monteiro, Rep. Moulding, Rep. Patterson, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Plunket, Rep. Post, Rep. Power, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Schefers, Rep. Scussel, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steere, Rep. Stein, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Thunberg, Rep. Tilney, Rep. Vivirito, Rep. Walker, Sr. and Rep. Wheeler, Jr.  
Members Absent: Rep. Bauer, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Jenkins, Rep. McMahon and Rep. Newsome

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Assistant Public Works Director John Carrington, Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.*

**B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

*The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag.*

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2006**

*A motion that the minutes be adopted was made by Rep. Walker, seconded by Rep. Smuts and so vote unanimously.*

**D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS**

*None.*

**E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS**

*The Moderator reported that Reps. Bauer, Garcia and Granatosky are unable to attend.  
Moderator Schmidt reported that she received a resignation letter from Rep. George Edwards effective April 1, 2006.  
The Moderator announced that Rep. Miner is the acting RTM Finance Committee chairman in the absence of Chairman Granatosky.*

**2006-0064 Acceptance of Open Space at Downes Patterson Subdivision**

**This matter was Referred to the RTM Community & Economic Development Committee, due back on May 10, 2006. The motion carried.**

**F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:**

**1. Financial report**

*Mr. Vincent reported that the Unreserved & Undesignated Fund balance as of July 1, 2005 is approximately \$8.6 million; the General Contingency balance is \$38,560; the Capital Reserve balance is \$3,423,557.*

*Mr. Vincent indicated that the Council may approve several supplemental appropriations and fourth quarter transfers at their May 2, 2006 meeting and that a referral to approve these appropriations and transfers would be forthcoming to the RTM for action. He stated that continued increases in utility and fuel costs and unexpected major vehicle repair costs are the reasons for the additional supplemental appropriations.*

## **2. Monthly briefing**

*The Town Manager announced that the Council has finished the budget review process of all non-Board of Education accounts. The Council will review the Board of Education account and may reconsider their actions on non-Board of Education accounts on April 25, 2006. He stated that a special meeting of the Council is tentatively scheduled for April 26, 2006 to finalize the budget.*

*He announced that final DEP approval for the Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade Project has been received. He recognized and thanked Gary Schneider and Carl Almquist for their ten years of hard work in moving this project forward.*

*He reported that SCRRA has finalized the schedule of Household Hazardous Waste collection. Groton will host its event on July 22, 2006. He emphasized that residents may attend any one of the eight area collection days. A schedule is posted on Channel 2, the Town's website, at the transfer station, and on various public information boards.*

## **G. LIAISON REPORTS**

### **1. Town Council - Rep. Monteiro**

*Rep. Monteiro reported on the meetings of the Council and Committee of the Whole held on March 21, March 28, April 4, and April 11, 2006. Public hearings were conducted on March 21 concerning the Sandy Hollow Road Curbing and Subdivision improvements and March 29 on the FY 2007 Budget.*

*Rep. Monteiro reported that the Council has restored approximately \$960,000 to the Town Operations accounts. She stated that a decrease of \$106,092 recommended by the Groton Long Point Association for the GLP police account will help offset the restoration of funds to Town Operations.*

### **2. Economic Development Commission - Rep. Cerf**

*Rep. Cerf reported that she was not able to attend the special commission meeting held on February 16, 2006.*

### **3. Town Council/Board of Education Liaison Committee - Rep. Patterson**

*Rep. Patterson attended the meeting held on March 15, 2006. Discussions took place about the wooden structure at Pleasant Valley School and whether the structure is going to be repaired to meet building code. Also discussed were the schools' exercise and nutrition programs since a policy has to be in place by July 1, 2006. Rep. Patterson reported that Councilor O'Beirne asked about the costs associated with the hazardous waste on the King Property and the future impact aid calculations concerning the civilians living in Government Military Housing (GMH). He requested explanations from the BOE for legal costs, purchased services and contracted services for computer support. Rep. Patterson reported that the BOE requested that the Town Profile be updated to include such selling points as Project Oceanology, the Aquarium, the Ballard Institute, the Marine Science Magnet High School.*

### **4. Permanent School Building Committee - Rep. Miner**

*Rep. Miner read his report summarizing the work of the committee during the last month. He reported that a temporary easement was granted by Dr. Patel for the Kolnaski Elementary School and that DEP approval was received for the temporary parking lot at Fitch High School. He noted that the committee revisited the application of geothermal energy usage in light of the*

*continuing rise in cost of fossil fuel. It was decided to continue the use of traditional oil and electric energy for heating and cooling in order to meet the terms of the referendum and budgetary requirements.*

**5. P.B.F.D. Consolidation Review Committee - Reps. Baril & Steinfeld**

*No meeting, no report.*

**6. Economic Development Strategic Planning Steering Ctee - Reps. Fairbank and Peruzzotti**

*Rep. Peruzzotti attended the public presentation of the Economic Development Plan at a meeting held on March 30, 2006. The comments from the public were favorable and there was consensus that the plan was well organized and highlighted all areas of Groton for development. The largest complaint was that the plan included ideas for the Mystic Education Center property which is still owned by the State. The residents of that area expressed concern about what may be developed on the Mystic Education Center property.*

**7. Shellfish Task Force - Rep. Ebbin**

*Rep. Ebbin reported on the meeting held March 27, 2006. A request to the DEP was made to increase the amount of rainfall that triggers a harvest closure of the Poquonnock River. Mr. Citec agreed on behalf of the DEP to file an administrative order to this effect to be attached to the Town and State Memo of Understanding. He noted that the memo would continue to stipulate weekly sampling of the river by the Town of Groton.*

*Mr. Vincent stated that State funds would not be available for the Fort Hill Sewer Project because the State has run out of Clean Water Funds. He reported that this is not fatal to the referendum and the Town can proceed without the State money.*

*Mr. Vincent also noted that the Noank Hatchery will be conveyed from the State to the Town. The Town will have to pay for the transfer and legal costs, and RTM approval is needed. The Town is working toward the transfer of the property as soon as possible.*

**H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. FINANCE**

**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Granatosky**

*No meeting, no report.*

**2. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Vivirito**

*No meeting, no report.*

**3. EDUCATION**

**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Patterson**

*Chairman Patterson announced that the committee will be meeting to consider the Board of Education budget on April 26, 2006.*

**4. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Wheeler**

*Committee Member Stein reported that the committee met on April 6, 2006 to review the budget accounts assigned and that a full report will be presented on May 17, 2006 at the annual RTM budget session for these accounts.*

**5. RECREATION**

**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town- Chairman Power**

*No meeting, no report.*

**6. PUBLIC SAFETY**

**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Pratt**

*Rep. Pratt reported that the committee met on April 10, 2006 to consider the appropriate budget*

*account and a full report will be made at the annual budget session on May 15, 2006.*

## 7. PUBLIC WORKS

### a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Collins

*Chairman Collins read the minutes of the meeting held on March 27, 2006. (See attached minutes.)*

*A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Pratt, seconded by Rep. Walker and so voted unanimously.*

#### 2005-0238 State Grant for Purchase of Hybrid Vehicles

##### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT-ASSISTED PURCHASE OF HYBRID VEHICLES

WHEREAS, the Town has the opportunity to purchase three hybrid compact all-wheel drive utility vehicles that will replace three existing large non-hybrid sport-utility vehicles that average approximately 14 miles per gallon, and

WHEREAS, hybrid energy-efficient vehicles are now available to meet the specific needs of Town of Groton employees in charge of snow removal and other urgent, all-season responses, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton is eligible for an energy assistance grant of \$4,500 per vehicle from the State of Connecticut that will cover the additional purchase cost, and

WHEREAS, the sharply lower fuel usage will partially pay for the Town's cost for the early replacement of the older and inefficient vehicles in a short period, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the expenditure of \$45,000 from funds appropriated from the Fleet Reserve (Account 60400.5420) for the purchase of three Ford Escape hybrid all-wheel drive vehicles, Town funds to be used jointly with funds provided in Connecticut Department of Transportation Project No. 170-2488.

Refer to RTM.

**A motion was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Ebbin, that this matter be Adopted.**

*In response to Reps. Sebastian and Perozzotti, Assistant Director of Public Works John Carrington, explained the process of the Fleet Reserve replacement schedule. He stated that the availability of a State grant prompted the early replacement of these three larger, inefficient and mechanically plagued vehicles. The hybrid vehicles have received no negative reports for the last 2 years. The new vehicles will increase fuel efficiency from the current thirteen to fourteen mpg to an estimated 26 mpg. He reported that the old vehicles will be taken out of service the day the new vehicles arrive and subsequently sold at auction.*

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 33 - Moderator Schmidt, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bartnik, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Harrell, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Miner, Rep. Monteiro, Rep. Moulding, Rep. Patterson, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Plunket, Rep. Post, Rep. Power, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Schefers, Rep. Scussel, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steere, Rep. Stein, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Thunberg, Rep. Tilney, Rep. Vivirito, Rep. Walker, Sr. and Rep. Wheeler, Jr.  
Opposed: 1 - Rep. Sebastian

#### 2006-0050 Road Acceptance

##### ACCEPTANCE OF A PORTION OF LEEWARD LANE AND WINDROSE DRIVE (PHASE III) AND TALEWINDS LANE (PHASE V)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission at its January 24, 2006 meeting recommended the acceptance of a portion of Leeward Lane and Windrose Drive (Phase III) and Talewinds Lane (Phase V), now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting hereby accepts a portion of Leeward Lane and Windrose Drive (Phase III) and Talewinds Lane (Phase V).

A motion was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Walker, Sr., that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2006-0061

**Road Acceptance**

ACCEPTANCE OF A PORTION OF LEDGELAND DRIVE, WATERHOUSE LANE AND BOLLES LANE IN THE DOWNES PATTERSON SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission at its January 24, 2006 meeting recommended the acceptance of the public improvements in the Downes Patterson Subdivision (aka Mystic Highlands), including a portion of LedgeLand Drive, Waterhouse Lane and Bolles Lane, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting hereby accepts a portion of LedgeLand Drive, Waterhouse Lane and Bolles Lane in the Downes Patterson Subdivision (aka Mystic Highlands).

A motion was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Walker, Sr., that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

**8. RULES & PROCEDURES**

**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Stein**

*Chairman Stein reported that the committee held a budget review meeting on April 10, 2006. A full report will be provided on May 3, 2006.*

**I. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Rep. Cerf noted that she would like a point in the meeting where members could present communications, much as the Town Councilors do at their meetings. She stated that she distributed copies of two communications prior to the meeting. She summarized an e-mail received from John Sutherland who was unable to attend and speak under Citizen's Petitions this evening.*

*Rep. Monteiro stated that in her opinion Rep. Cerf was out of order, and that she should have spoken under Citizens Petitions.*

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. was made by Rep. Walker, seconded by Rep. Miner and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the RTM*

*Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk*